

**Abstract 172**

**TITLE:** How To Get Your Community Involved In HIV/STD Education

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Houston Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of HIV/STD Prevention employs community involvement coordinators to enhance HIV prevention service delivery. The CICs conduct community level interventions outlined in the HIV prevention comprehensive plan.

Over the past 5 years these coordinators have developed specific work groups composed of community-based organizations and service providers that work directly with the specific target groups to assist in the development of realistic impact strategies. Currently, the Bureau has four functioning work groups.

Substance Abuse Work Group

Urban AIDS Ministry Task Force

Women at Risk Working Group

Youth Task Force

**RESULTS/LESSONS LEARNED:** We will explain the stages of development of these groups as well as illustrate some of the results including community resource booklets, point of contact flyers, brochures and videos. Research shows that acceptance of information takes place when the target is able to perceive a risk and relate to the presenter; all groups have developed a peer education curriculum and training course to magnify the HIV/STD prevention intervention process.

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